RG104 E-1 Box 173

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C.,

November 7, 1891.

Superintendent Mint U.S.,

Philadelphia, Penna.

Sir:

As I wrote you yesterday, the experimental pieces for the new designs for the half-dollar were submitted ~~by~~ to the Secretary to the President and Cabinet yesterday, and they all liked the design without the clouds best. I also submitted copies of the same pieces to friends in New York, and they prefer the design without the clouds. The objection to the clouds is that it is almost impossible to represent clouds in metal and have them look like clouds. Those upon the coin which you sent me yesterday are a slight improvement upon the other pieces; but still they look just as much like fifty other things as they do like clouds. Besides the design without the clouds gives a bolder appearance to the stars.

After ~~a~~ full consideration I have decided to adopt the design, omitting the clouds, and you are hereby authorized and instructed to prepare dies accordingly. In this connection I beg to call your attention

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to the lettering upon the scroll "E Pluribus unum", which I think can be considerably improved, and made in a little higher relief. I like the face of the coin which you sent yesterday very much. The design of the eagle can be elevated a little I think, the clouds being omitted.

Respectfully yours,

E. O. Leech

Director of the Mint.

It is suggested that the word "liberty" might be made more plain.

E. O. L.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 173

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